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Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station

STATION NEWS

Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station
211 Mumford Hall

June 1989
Issue 2-89

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Faculty in the College forwarded seventeen proposals to the North Central Region LISA Program Coordinator at the University of Nebraska for funding under the Federal Low-Input/Sustainable Agriculture program. UIUC faculty also were involved in six proposals submitted by other North Central states.

Illinois proposals covered such topics as low-input systems for apples and tomatoes, tillage and cropping systems, weed control strategies, farm management and financial studies, integrated approaches in forestry, biomass-fueled power, use of manures, lessons from archeology and history, and educational programs for farmers and Extension professionals.

Competition for LISA funding in the North Central Region is expected to be keen. Proposals will be reviewed by a technical committee and recommendations made to the region's LISA Administrative Council. Awards will be made early in June and funding should be available by September 1.

Members of the College ad hoc Sustainable Agriculture Committee are:

Darin Eastburn - Plant Pathology
Dan Faulkner - Animal Sciences
Gerald Gast - 4-H and Youth
John Gerber - Horticulture
Donald Kuhlman - Ag Entomology
Eli Levine - Ag Entomology
Timothy Marty - Forestry
Emerson Nafziger - Agronomy
Robert Reber - SHRFS.
Ann Reisner - Ag Communications
Earl Russell - Ag Education
John Siemens- Ag Engineering
Michael Tumbleson - Vet Medicine
John van Es - Ag Economics
Richard Warner - Natural History Survey
Peter Bloome - Cooperative Extension
Benjamin Jones - Ag Experiment Station
Harvey Schweitzer - Ag Experiment Station (coordinator)

Three subcommittees have been formed. One will assist in publishing a College newsletter dealing with agroecology and agricultural sustainability, a second will deal with issues in "on-farm research" and a third will plan a series of lectures and seminars relating to sustainable agriculture.

The possibility of creating an agroecology curriculum was discussed at the last meeting of the committee. William George agreed to pursue this matter further.

SENATE BILL 63... THE COMPETITIVE EDGE FOR ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE

Progress is being made on Senate Bill 63, which is the "line item" for agricultural research and extension that has been discussed for many years. When SB 63 passes, authorized funds appropriated to the Illinois Department of Agriculture would be made available to four of Illinois' four-year, state-supported universities to enlarge, improve, and sustain publicly supported programs of adaptive research and related extension programs. If you would like a copy of the legislation and a brief document describing the importance of the bill, call Scottie Miller (3-1818).

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BUILDING UPDATE

Doug Bauling, Assistant to the Director of the AES and Planning Engineer for the College of Agriculture, provides us with the status of building and remodeling on the following projects in the College:

Agricultural Bioprocess Laboratory (ABL)

The ABL is fully occupied and currently houses faculty and programs from the Departments of Food Science and Horticulture and from INTSOY.

Animal Sciences Laboratory (ASL)

The latest bids are sufficiently under the architectural estimates that the next phase will include the entire addition (including fourth floor offices and labs) as well as remodeling of the south wing. Funds have been held back to complete remodeling of the existing east-west wing in a subsequent phase. We now expect to have construction and contingency funds to remodel some of the basement and fourth floor of the east-west wing, but new funds will be necessary to complete the project as originally planned.

IMPORTED SWINE RESEARCH LABORATORY

The College has requested that the above name be the official title for the new swine facility developed for the Chinese swine research project. The facility has been completed and is awaiting the arrival of the animals, which are in quarantine in Florida. Tentative plans are to officially dedicate the building in the Fall of 1989.

National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL)

The NSRL Building Programming Committee expects to complete the program statement for the facility by the end of May. The architect selection process is now moving ahead. $750,000 in equipment funds will be requested for FY 91.

NSRL Programming Committee members are:
- Robert Howell - Agronomy
- Michael Irwin - Ag Entomology
- Harold Kauffman - International Agriculture/INTSOY
- Cecil Nickell - Agronomy
- Robert Rinne - USDA
- James Sinclair - Plant Pathology
- Douglas Bauling - Committee Chair/AES

Tentative plans are to house the USDA administrative office, NSRL offices, and faculty and staff from Agronomy/USDA, Entomology, INTSOY and Plant Pathology in this facility.

Assignment of NSRL space will be in the following general areas:

Research laboratories and support areas	14,000 sq. ft.
Office space	8,800
Lecture, classroom, conference and library space	5,300
Unassigned	1,300

Plant and Animal Biotechnology Laboratory (PABL)

Construction is progressing very well and completion of the PABL is expected in December 1990. $3 million in equipment funds will be requested in FY 91.

Currently there is no central administration of PABL planned, and program administration will be by departments.

Department and unit heads have agreed to the following allocation of space (subject to adjustment):

Agronomy/USDA	26,000 sq. ft.
Animal Science/Vet Med.	9,000
Entomology	2,000
Forestry	2,500
Horticulture	14,000
Central Animal Facility	20,000
Photosynthesis Research Unit	15,000
Support space (offices)	5,000
Conference Center (to be developed later)	2,000

TAKE A WAGON TOUR OF SOUTH FARMS ON JUNE 15

The 1989 Agronomy Day activities will take place June 15 at UI South Farms. This is a good opportunity for all College faculty and staff to observe agricultural research in other departments and find out what's new. There will be a variety of tours, demonstrations, exhibits and equipment displays by the departments of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Entomology, Agronomy, Animal Sciences and Plant Pathology. For a brochure and additional information, call 333-3420 (Agronomy Department).

PROPOSAL TRANSMITTAL FORMS

The Grants and Contracts office indicates that it is receiving a number of proposals submitted with the old Proposal Transmittal Form rather than the new one. Because the old form does not have information currently being logged into the Grants and Contracts data base, using it generates problems. The current form can be identified by the 4/87 date on the lower left-hand corner of the back of the form. Keep in mind that you need to submit four Campus Proposal Transmittal forms -- three for Grants and Contracts and one for the AES office. The forms should be paper-clipped (not stapled) to the first proposal.

NEW RESEARCH FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGY PROPOSALS

The Biotechnology Research and Development Corporation (BRDC) of Peoria is inviting preproposals for the support of highly innovative exploratory research projects related to biotechnology for which there are inadequate, if any, substantiating data.

The objective is to provide one year's support to enable scientists to test the feasibility of ideas that ordinarily would not be eligible for funding from the traditional funding agencies.

The maximum budget should not exceed $60,000 and can be applied to partial salary of the principal investigator and salaries of postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, supplies and limited capital equipment. If the first-year results are encouraging, BRDC will invite a proposal for full funding for up to three years.

Preproposals are welcomed at any time. Forms are available in your departmental office or at the AES in 211 Mumford.

FREE AG LIBRARY COMPUTER DATABASE USE FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Faculty, students, staff and the public now have free access to the following two UI Agricultural Library computer databases:

1) AGRICOLA is the electronic version of the National Agriculture Library Bibliography of Agriculture. AGRICOLA includes journal articles, books. proceedings, USDA, FAO, State Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service publications on agriculture (dating from 1981 to November 1988).

2) BAI (Biological and Agricultural Index) indexes over 200 English-language periodicals in biology, agriculture and related sciences (dating from 1985 to November 1988).

AGRICOLA and BAI are located near the PLATO terminals and are available whenever the Agriculture Library is open. The databases are updated quarterly and are accessible on Library microcomputers. Printers are available at each station so you can walk away with a list of citations.

MINUTES AVAILABLE

Faculty who wish to review minutes of Faculty-Student Senate meetings, College Executive Committee meetings, and College Administrative Committee meetings may look at copies in their departmental office or in 101 Mumford Hall.

STATISTICAL CONSULTING SERVICE AVAILABLE

The Illinois Statistics Office (ISO), Department of Statistics, provides up to two hours of free consulting to University faculty and staff on statistical problems in research work.

Assistance is available in designing experiments, constructing survey plans, analyzing data, extending theoretical research, utilizing computers in statistics, and preparing statistical sections of research proposals.

Statistical package programming and data coding, as well as some supercomputer programming assistance, also are available but there is a charge for these services.

To use the service or to schedule an appointment to see a consultant, call 333-5703, or stop by the ISO office in 103 Illini Hall. ISO office hours are 9-12 a.m., and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

SRIB RECEIVES DCCA GRANT

The College's Sponsored Research Incubator Building (SRIB) recently received a $79,515 operational grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. The funds will be applied to cover salaries, supplies, maintenance, and other operating costs.

Since its opening (Fall 1987) the SRIB has been instrumental in the University of Illinois receiving over $500,000 in contracts and grants, and the College and various departments receiving over $16,000 in Indirect Cost Recovery.

Richard Hahn resigned his position as SRIB manager, effective March 30, and accepted a position with the State of Kansas. A new manager has not been named. Ken Harris continues to serve as facilities supervisor.

Current SRIB tenants are: Agri-Tech Industries, Inc.; Ajinimoto Co., Inc.; Consul-Tox, Inc; Identity Preserved Grain Laboratory; J. R. Snyder, Inc; Midwest Molecular Diagnostics, Inc.; National Animal Poison Information Network (NAPINet); and Resource Economics Corp.

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